

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 17 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 4 have been amended. Support for the amendments can be found at paragraphs [0024] and [0068] of the published application. Claims 6-16 have been previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional or continuation applications directed to any canceled subject matter. No new matter has been added by this paper. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments noted have placed the application in condition for allowance.

Claim rejections under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-3 and 17 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Brennan (U.S. Patent No. 6,011,111) as set forth on pages 3-4 of the office action.

Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include a polymerization catalyst in the reaction step for forming a thermoplastic. Brennan fails to disclose the presence of the recited polymerization catalyst in the reaction comprising a first reactive compound and a second reactive compound. Accordingly, amended claim 1 and the corresponding dependent claims are not anticipated by Brennan because Brennan fails to disclose every element recited in these claims. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim rejections under 35 USC §103

Claims 4 and 5 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Brennan as set forth on pages 5-6 of the office action.

Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include a polymerization catalyst in the reaction step for forming a thermoplastics. Brennan fails to teach or suggest the presence of the recited polymerization catalyst in the reaction comprising a first reactive compound and a second reactive compound. Specifically, Brennan fails to teach or suggest the use of a catalyst selected from the group consisting of phosphorus catalyst, 1,2-alkylenebenzimidazole, 2-aryl-4,5-diphenylimidazole and combination thereof. One of ordinary skill in the art would not arrive at the instant invention based on Brennan because Brennan fails to suggest the desirability of such catalyst in the polymerization reaction. Nor would the skilled artisan have a reasonable

expectation of success given the lack of such a suggestion and unpredictability of this technology. Accordingly, dependent claims 4-5 are not obvious over Brennan because Brennan fails to teach or suggest every element and limitation recited in these claims. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that all claims are now in condition for allowance, early notice of which would be appreciated. Should the Examiner disagree, Applicant respectfully requests a telephonic or in-person interview with the undersigned attorney to discuss any remaining issues and to expedite the eventual allowance of the claims.

No fee is believed to be due for the amendments herein. Except for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any necessary fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,

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